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# Local News – Great Britain

We welcome His Excellency Mr. François-Charles Pictet, our new Ambassador and his wife, Madame Pictet, and wish them a happy stay in the United Kingdom.



I thank the *Swiss Review* for giving me the opportunity to address my most cordial greetings to all members of the Swiss community in the United Kingdom.

The relations between Switzerland and the United Kingdom are traditionally very close and friendly. In both countries, we see many things the same way and deeply share common values. Above all, there is between us confidence and trust. I know that this fortunate situation is to a large extent also due to the constructive role played for a long time by the Swiss who made Britain their second homeland. I wish to pay tribute to you for your outstanding contribution to the climate of friendship and understanding between the two countries.

My wife and I are very much looking forward to meeting you during the coming years.

François-Charles Pictet  
Ambassador

## Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

### Literature

Hugo LOETSCHER

the well-known Swiss writer will give a lecture at the Swiss Embassy on 22nd March. For details see next Bulletin.

*A Symposium on Swiss Literature* will take place at the Institute of Germanic Studies (29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP) on 22nd and 23rd March.

Although in principle reserved for University Language Specialists, some seats might be available for the general public. Enquiries to Prof. John Flood, IGS, Tel: 01-580 3480.

*Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "Der Besuch der alten Dame"*

will be presented by The German Society Goldsmiths' College, London SE14 6NW, on 19th, 20th and 21st March.

Further details will follow in the next Bulletin.

If you know anyone interested in receiving information about Swiss cultural events in Britain, please ring the Cultural Section of the Swiss Embassy (01-723 0701, ext. 248) and we shall be only too happy to put them on our mailing list.

The International Festival of Puppet Theatre, have invited *Les Marionnettes de Genève* from the 24th of April to 28th of April. Daily performances at 2.30 p.m. at:

The Place  
17 Dukes Road  
London W.C.1.  
Tel: 387 0161

Private accommodations are required by the artists from Saturday, 21st April to Sunday, 29th April. We are looking for rooms for two couples and four single people.

Anyone interested in providing accommodation, please ring 01-228 8863 or the Swiss Embassy on 01-723 0701, ext. 248 immediately.

### Music

Charles Dantoit will be conducting L'Orchestre de Montréal on Sunday, 15th April at the Barbican Centre. For further details phone the Swiss Embassy on 01-723 0701, ext. 248.

### Swiss Embassy

16/18 Montagu Place  
London W1H 2BQ  
Tel. 01-723 0701

### Consulat-General of Switzerland

Sunley Building  
Piccadilly Plaza  
Manchester M1 4BH  
Tel. 061-236 2933

### Editor's address:

Mrs. M. E. Hall-Zeller  
27 Redway Drive  
Whitton TW2 7NT  
Tel. 01-894 2114

### Swiss Review

Deadlines for your contributions and illustrations:

2/84 June, 27.4.84  
3/84 October, 3.8.84  
4/84 December, 12.10.84



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## Swiss Benevolent Society

When the Swiss Benevolent Society came into being on the 1st January, 1870, it took over from the Swiss Church the task of assisting compatriots in need. Its function was primarily confined to helping people in financial plights.

In 1984, the position is very different indeed. Only about one fifth of our clients are in receipt of regular grants and almost half receive no money whatsoever, though they are often the very people who need a large part of the Social Worker's time.

*Who are those clients?* Many are elderly and beset by all kinds of problems. They may need to make alternative arrangements for their future and require intensive support during the inevitable period of stress and uncertainty that accompanies such a decision; or they may prefer to maintain the status quo but need more time than the local authorities are able to give in spite of their various excellent services for the housbound; then there are families in Switzerland who worry about the lack of news and we are able to act as intermediaries. Some people are entirely alone in this country, often without friends even and the social worker takes the place of next-of-kin both in their eyes and in the eyes of those who care for them, such as matrons of homes, neighbours and acquaintances.



Some are younger families, often single parents who look to us for support in difficult circumstances and for whom we represent a friendly presence in times of stress and anxiety; there are bereaved people who need both understanding and practical advice; people who are sick and require visiting and sometimes help in settling certain affairs which they cannot attend to because of their illness. We do try to meet each person's need or, if this is beyond our scope, we assist them in finding the right source of help and stay in touch till they have established a relationship of confidence with someone.

Since the closure of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, the premises at Conway Street have been used as an emergency hostel for girls who may need time to get over difficulties and consider what to do next. At this moment, the building is undergoing extensive alterations to make it both more suitable and more pleasing for those who come to stay here. The presence of the Swiss Welfare Office in our building makes it very convenient for them to have a time for pausing and reflection.

*How is the Swiss Benevolent Society run?* The day to day work and the administration are in the hands of the Secretary/Social Worker who is backed up by an Executive Committee which meets once a month and carries the responsibility for the activities of the Society. This Executive Committee is elected by the members of the Society. In order to widen this membership and have it rooted well in the Swiss Colony, we have just adopted a change of Statutes and more compatriots in the Colony will be approached to join within the next few weeks.

In order to fulfill our task, we need the help of the Swiss Colony, both by their interest and by their directing those whom we can help towards us. Any application can be addressed to Mrs. A.-R. Sharp, Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL—telephone: 01-387 2173. Regula Sharp

## Swiss Rifle Association

1984 Shooting Programme—300m

Sunday, 1st April

Sunday, 15th April

Sunday, 20th May

Sunday, 3rd June

Sunday, 24th June

MRPC Match

Last date for Oblig. & Feldschiessen

Sunday, 9th September

Surrey Match

Sunday, 23rd September

Last date for medal shoots

Sunday, 7th October

Gruempelschiessen

The Rifle meetings are held at Bisley Camp and shooting takes place on the 300m covered Stand on Century Range starting at 10.00 sharp. Pistol shooting is also available on the Gallery Range, subject to demand.

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## NOTICE

Would any Swiss living in the Cardiff area be interested in meeting occasionally or regularly for a chat or exchange of ideas, or perhaps even establish a Swiss Club eventually? Please contact

Mrs. Françoise Martin  
12, Bryngwyn Road  
Cyncoed, Cardiff CF2 6PQ  
Tel: 0222 755157

## Yorkshire Swiss Club

### Forthcoming events:

March: a film show.

We have pre-plans for another boat trip, visits to a coal mine and a table-mat factory, and believe it or not, we are literally taking to the air, gliding!

We shall inform you about the dates when the events have been arranged.

Lilian Baumann  
General Secretary

## PRESS RELEASE

At a Cocktail Party held recently at the Dorchester, over 70 ex-students from the Lausanne Hotel School met to discuss the old days. There are about 100 "Old Boys" in the country, but there were many guests in London at the time attending the World Travel Market.

The theme of the part was all English, with English wines from the English Wine Centre and English buffet designed by Anton Mossiman, which included kipper paté, deep fried mussels and oysters, dressed crabs and of course, fish and chips.

The photograph shows from left to right, Lausanne Old Boys, Udo Schlenrich, General Manager of the Dorchester with his wife, Anton Mossiman, not actually a former student, but Executive Head Chef at the Dorchester helping Lausanne to show off the best that London has to offer, Vanessa Woodbine Parrish with Gary Hall, Stammvater in London and his wife Juliet with Kurt Alchenberger, President of the Lausanne Stamm worldwide.



Further details from:—  
Gary D. Hall, 0628 72222  
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**SWISS WELFARE  
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Die agile, ambitionöse und zielstrebige Persönlichkeit, begeisterungsfähig und motivationsstark, findet hier die Aufgabe, in der weitere Entwicklungsmöglichkeiten innerhalb des Untemehmens konkret wahrgenommen werden können.

Wir versichern Ihnen absolute Vertraulichkeit in der Behandlung Ihrer Bewerbung, die Sie uns bitte vollständig einreichen wollen. Wenn Sie vorgängig telefonisch Verbindung aufnehmen möchten, sind wir, soweit im Rahmen der zu wahrenen Diskretion möglich, gerne bereit, Ihnen Auskünfte zu erteilen; Detailliertes in einem persönlichen Gespräch, auf das sich der Unterzeichnete freut.

Bruno Wetter

#### Kaderpool

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8039 Zürich, Stockerstrasse 44  
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## Vote YES

At last the great day arrived and we were off to Switzerland! After weeks of hectic writing to everybody at home to ask for support for the coming Referendum, 15 of us from the Mothers-Group, met on that foggy 1st of December morning at Gatwick Air Port to fly home—to VOTE!

Once we settled in the aircraft the excitement began. As we all had our "last breakfast" very early we were looking forward to at least one of those soggy ham and lettuce sandwiches that go with charter flights. Well, the great meal arrived—three miserable little Bourbon biscuits and a tiny cup of coffee! Big deal!! Thank goodness Angela had a birthday to celebrate in the air—her 21st—and we brought a cake. With her usual sweet little voice, the leader of the gang, Lisa, presented it to her and sang softly: "Happy birthday dear Angela ..." and immediately told her to give us all a piece!

The flight was lovely and soon a snowy Zurich was in sight. What a great feeling it always is when those aircraft wheels touch the ground—home again! But this time we had a job to do—we came to fight for the right of our children to become Swiss citizens. So—properly labelled with a tag on our lapel that had our name, Mothers-Group-London and of course the emblem of the Swiss Abroad on it we rushed through the green lights, loaded with bags full of Christmas presents for our families to catch our trains. But there was a gentleman waiting for us. Not a policeman, but Mr. Paillard from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad. He came specially down from Bern to welcome us and wish us luck for Sunday. He was so sure we would win, he made us do the V-sign (not exactly the thing to do back in England!).

With a cheerful "have a nice time—see you Monday" we dashed off in different directions. Lisa, Angela and myself headed east and made for the lifts. We went up and down a few times before we got the platform right for the train to St. Gallen. On arrival there, a gorgeous, homely smell greeted us—the "Maroni-Broetler" was busy stirring his chestnuts on his hot charcoal grill. But we had to ring up for transport. While we waited we went to the station restaurant and as there was a half empty cup of Ovo left on the table, we had to have one too. The man next to us was eating the most deliciously smelling cheese flans and we just had to have some as well—what a combination!

Of course that great campaigner, Lisa, had to let the people round us know why we were here and that she too, like the mat at the other table, was an Appenzeller (Hall-ZELLER, get it?). It worked, he paid for her cheese flans!! Next morning, 10 o'clock sharp I was at the familiar town hall where I said yes once before—when I got married. This time it was more formal, under the watchful eyes of the mayor, the town clerk and other officials I signed my papers. Then the "golden" key was ceremoniously turned to open the box, and my YES plonked in. By now it was freezing cold, the lake looked very black and it started to snow. So, after some hurried visits to friends, a quick dash to the shops to fill up my bags with all the Swiss goodies my family ordered me to bring back. Then once more I had to leave my home. Back to St. Gallen where I took the old rattle train the "Bodensee-Toggenburg-Bahn" to Luzern where my sister was waiting for me. It was a lovely ride, pitch black outside with only now and then a glimmer of light from a lonely farmhouse and some deer stalking in the snow looking for food. And all the way through the Toggenburg there was a beautiful Christmas tree full of glittering lights at each beginning and each end of a village to let night travellers know Christmas was coming.



Now let us say a big THANK YOU to all those who have worked so hard for us and made this trip possible and successful. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FROM ALL OF US—and from the children too!  
Heidi Miller

At last we were in Luzern where my shivering sister had stood waiting for more than an hour! I stayed there for the next two days and all my family came to spend Sunday with me and around a lovely tree we spent our very first Christmas together since I "emigrated". All too soon Monday arrived and I had to pack my bags and go back to the Airport where almost all the girls from my school waited to spend the afternoon with me. There was one last run for the duty free shops. We were all happy—our mission was successfully completed and we were one step nearer to fulfill the wishes of our children—to be SWISS—like their Mums.

There is just one thing: If we ever have a similar Referendum where we need the support of EVERYBODY, we sincerely hope we don't have to hear of some people who just couldn't bother; either because their children were fortunate enough to have a swiss FATHER to pass on his Nationality, or even worse—because they were actually AGAINST it!!! This is incredible, to say the least. Let us remind them: had it not been for those, who years ago, had fought so that Swiss women could keep their Citizenship, when they married foreigners—lots of us would still be now just that: FOREIGNERS! So please, next time give us at least your support!

**Swiss Church—Eglise Suisse**  
79 Endell Street, London WC2.  
Minister: Rev. Hans Wunderli  
Service in German first and third Sunday in the month at 11 am.  
Service in French second, fourth and fifth Sunday at 11 am

## Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club

This year we shall be celebrating our 75th Anniversary. It has a special significance, for within three years of our foundation in 1909 we had raised funds for the building of a hut—the Britannia Hut, which was presented to the Swiss Alpine Club. We are therefore very proud to have this historic link with Switzerland.

To mark the occasion there will be an Alpine Festival in Saas Fee organised by the Swiss National Tourist Office during the two weeks 18th August—2nd September, the central feature of which will be a major ceremony at the Britannia Hut on Saturday 25th August. This will include a religious service conducted by the Bishops of Sion and St. Albans and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, attended by such notabilities as Lord Hunt of Everest fame. Distinguished patrons of this occasion include the Swiss Ambassador, the Swiss Foreign Minister and the President of the Canton du Valais. Any readers interested in taking part in a one or two week's climbing, hiking or leisure holiday in Saas-Fee including participation in the celebrations at very advantageous prices can obtain detailed information from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 1 New Coventry Street, London W1V 8EE, Tel: 01-734 1921.

Members of the Swiss community may also be interested in the following evening lectures which we shall be arranging at 7 p.m. at the Alpine Club in London:

*21 March*

John Wright: Expedition to East Greenland

*16 May*

Maurice Bennett—"History of the Association"

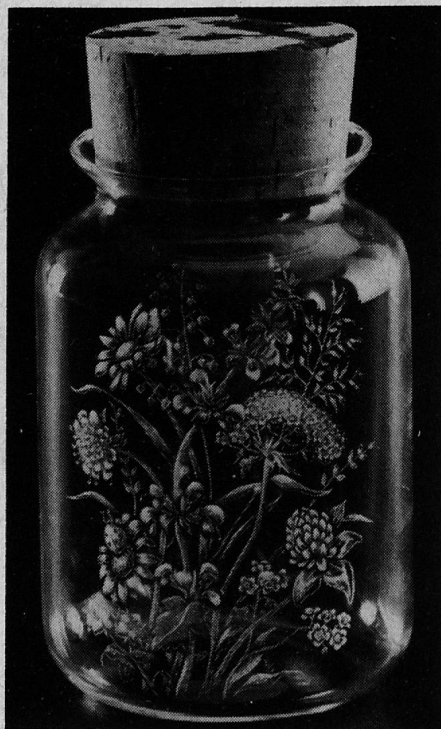
(This will form part of a Buffet Party)

If you are interested in coming as a guest or joining the Association, please contact:

John Eccles  
New Members Secretary  
Albertine Cottage  
52 North Street  
Marcham  
Oxom OX13 6NG



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Trudi Bolliger, one of the Swiss group which developed the craft, is now introducing this fascinating hobby in the UK. Her company, TB Glass Engraving (Switzerland), has started to sell the complete range of products, together with instructions for the right technique.

Ideally, she would like to find Swiss nationals (male or female) or British subjects with Swiss family connections to introduce this Swiss-developed hobby in the UK.

Anybody, with or without artistic training, can become an instructor, including those, of course, who are familiar with the craft from Switzerland and may already have some practical experience.

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Glass engraving, once the privilege of a few masters, can today be practised by people of every age and profession, even without any artistic talent or experience, thanks to a surprising new and easy technique developed in Switzerland by a group of enthusiasts some years ago.

The first technique of hand glass engraving was discovered by the Venetians in the 16th century. It was performed with a single tip diamond instrument and required considerable artistic skill and talent.

The art was soon taken up in the Netherlands where it flourished, especially in the 17th century. It was replaced by the wheel cutting process, however, which allowed glass engraving to be carried out on a large scale for commercial purposes.

Both glass engraving methods are still in use today, and they certainly have their merits but neither of them is as easy, versatile and rewarding as the Swiss technique discovered in